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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 8 December 1952

SUBJECT Koethen Airfield

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REPORT NO.

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1. Aircraft Count:

A total of 36 MIG-15, 3 PO-2 and 1 LA-9 aircraft were counted on this airfield on 17 September 52.

2. Flying activity.

Daily, throughout the period, between 10 and 15 MIG-15 aircraft carried out single training flights of between 10 and 25 minutes duration. No formation flying took place.

All MIG-15 aircraft seen in flight had been fitted with drop tanks and on 16 and 17 September the aircraft so fitted appeared to be carrying out test flights with the object of testing the new tanks. On both of these days aircraft were seen to take off, fly two circuits of the airfield and after landing taxi to the take-off end of the runway where mechanics appeared to be adjusting the tanks. In each case a total of five to six mechanics worked on the tanks for a period of approximately 10 minutes, after which the aircraft took off again and carried out circuits of up to 15 to 20 minutes duration.

During the period it was observed that aircraft took off in all conditions and directions of wind; previously very little or no flying took place during Southerly or Northerly winds.

All MIG-15 aircraft taking off appeared to have a much steeper climb after the take-off than during the flying previously observed. Previously, aircraft were observed to climb gradually, flying approximately three kilometres before turning. During this period of observation, aircraft were seen to make a climbing turn after reaching a height of only 10 metres. Similarly, landing

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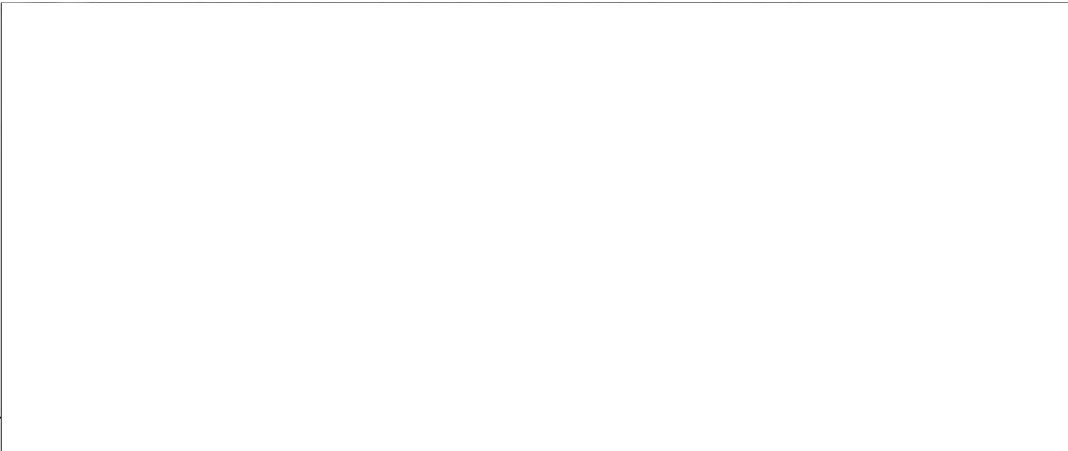
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technique appeared to have changed and aircraft were observed to make shallower approaches to land, passing over the village of Wuelknitz (when approaching from the West) at an estimated height of 35 metres as opposed to a height of 60 metres observed previously.

3. Airfield installations.

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Construction continued on the perimeter fence and on blast shelters.



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